

## Brown garden snail

### *Cantareus aspersa*

#### Description

Introduced to North America (Maine) as early as 1839, and in the 1850?s a French entrepreneur brought them to California intending to sell them as food. They are one of two species primarily used as escargot.

#### Identification

Brown body; Shell tends to be brown, tan, and yellow with swirls, bands, and flecks; Shell can grow up to 1.25 inches in diameter and leaves a silvery slime trail.

#### Habitat

Native to Britain, Western Europe, and along the borders of the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Brown garden snails are terrestrial gastropods that prefer undisturbed habitats. Adequate moisture and a good food supply are important habitat requirements. Preference is given to orchards with loamy soils that are well shaded by tree canopy.



Phil Bendle



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Bill Frank, Jacksonville Shell Club

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## **Reproduction**

Hermaphrodite though mating is required for fertilization. During the mating process they fertilize each other and both will lay around 80 eggs 3-6 days after the mating occurs. Each snail will create a nest by digging a hole in the soil with its foot. Each hole will be 1-1.5 inches deep. They are able to lay 6 batches of eggs per year and each newborn takes 1-2 yrs to mature.

## **Impact**

The rasping mouthparts of the brown garden snail leave behind irregular holes and jagged edges on the leaves and fruit it consumes and eventually kills the plant.

## **Similar**

## **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Manual control (hand collection of individuals), creating barriers to restrict access to foliage; chemical control (carbamates, metal chelates and metaldehyde); and biological control - the predatory snail *Rumina decollata* has found to be an effective biological control agent in California. Molluscicides alone are not effective.

## **Credits**

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